they have become surplus direct. However, the same guidelines, as in the case of Group 'C' employees, are applicable in case of Group 'D' employees as well.

(b) to (d) for the purpose of identifying surplus employees, the junior most persons are to be enlisted first. However, persons higher in seniority volunteering to be declared surplus are to be given preference to their juniors. As per the provisions laid down in the Rule 4(6) of the Central Civil Services (Redeployment of Surplus Staff) Rules, 1990, the Ministry or Head of Department may, under intimation to the concerned cell i.e. Surplus Cell of this Department in case of Group 'C' employees or the Directorate General of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour in case of Group 'D' employees, adjust eligible employees declared surplus by it against the vacancies, if any, available at that time he is declared surplus or before he is redeployed through the Cell, in any post located in any eligible office under its control and carrying equivalent pay scale for appointment to which he is considered by the Appointing Authority to be suitable.

The provisions are applicable only to Central Civil Servants covered under the Central Civil Services (Redeployment of Surplus Staff) Rules, 1990.

Administrative Reforms

†949. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 43 lakh people are working in Civil Administrative Services under Central Government;

(b) if not, the number thereof at the end of March, 1999;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the present changing scenario, administrative system needs a drastic change;

(d) if so, reaction of Government thereto;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether Government have considered to take action for administrative reforms measures; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) As per the information available with the Ministry of Finance, the estimated strength of the Central Government employees as on 1 March, 1999 was 39,02,303.

(c) to (f) The Government has been taking measures from time to time to improve and re-organise its administrative set up to promote efficiency, keeping in view the needs of changing environment. The steps taken in the recent past include the following:

(i) Several Ministries/Departments/Organisations with considerable public interface have introduced Citizens' Charters indicating broadly the quality of service, the public would be entitled to, within a specified time frame. Information and Facilitation Counters have been set up by 45 Ministries / Departments / Central Government Organisations to provide information on procedures and the schemes of the concerned organisation as well as to access information pertaining to the status of individual cases.

(ii) Steps have also been taken to strengthen the existing machinery for redress of public grievances. Most of the Ministries/Departments have fixed time limits for handling grievances received from the Members of Parliament, and the names of the officers handling grievances have been publicised. A system of categorising all the grievances and their computerised monitoring has been installed in various Ministries/Departments and this

is linked to the main terminal in the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.

(iii) The Government has also taken up simplification of laws, rules and procedures for improving efficiency in the organisations. Towards this end, over 40 Departments have undertaken, through expert Task Forces or by internal exercises, a detailed review of laws, regulations and procedures administered by them.

(iv) A Commission on Review of Administrative Laws was set up on 8 May, 1998 under the Chairmanship of Shri P.C. Jain with a view to identify proposals for amendment/repeal of existing laws, regulations and procedures having inter-sectoral impact so as to make them objective, transparent and predictable. The Commission submitted its report on 30 September, 1998. The important recommendations of the Commission include repeal of almost 50% of Central Laws (1382 out of 2500 Laws), expeditious amendments to a critical list of 109 identified Acts, documentation of administrative laws (rules, regulations, executive instructions) by all the Ministries/Departments, harmonisation of statutes and laws with reference to the perspective of domestic and foreign investors, trade and industry, consumers, exporters and importers, and development of a viable alternative disputes resolution machinery. The Government has constituted a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Personnel) for monitoring the follow-up action on implementation of the recommendations contained in the report. The Committee has held fifteen meetings with different Ministries/Departments in groups. Most of the Ministries/ Departments have initiated action to make suitable amendments/modifications to or repeal the Acts and laws being administered by them with a view to improve service delivery and bring about transparency in the functioning of Government.